

## Liz Heffernan

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**From:** ELIZABETH KANTER [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 August 2020 17:58  
**To:** leo.varadkar@oir.ie; Minister  
**Subject:** Fwd: Update on TikTok

Dear Minister,

I am writing with the below update as I thought it might be of interest to you. If you would like any further briefing, please let me know.

As you may have seen overnight President Trump has issued an [Executive Order](#) overnight - this is a huge shock and disappointment to TikTok users, creators, partners and our many employees. We have worked hard to engage, find a solution and as ever, explain our commitment to the security of our users, and I wanted to share our full response to this move, outlined [here](#).

We have repeatedly made clear that TikTok has never shared user data with the Chinese government, nor censored content at its request. In fact, we have committed to making our moderation guidelines and algorithms available in our [newly announced](#) Transparency Centre, which is a level of accountability no peer company has committed to.

In this vein, we published a [newsroom post](#) from Erich Andersen, our General Counsel, and Roland Cloutier, our Chief Information Security Officer, which sets out our wider approach to security and makes the following commitments for TikTok globally:

- *We will ensure that employees outside the countries where TikTok is available cannot access individual user records.*
- *We will work with trusted and qualified third parties to help build these data access systems and take responsibility for oversight and monitoring.*
- *We will invite external security experts to conduct audits of our systems.*
- *We will work with one or more reputable companies to play the role of technology solution provider in our advanced data security and access assurance program.*

These commitments are wholly unprecedented in our industry: we are committing to open up to third party scrutiny with a radical degree of transparency and access that no other tech company offers. These commitments demonstrate that we will apply the highest standards of security - verifiable by external security experts and one or more other companies - consistently and globally for all of TikTok.

TikTok has a long-term commitment to Ireland, which already plays a key role in our rapidly expanding European operations. Since establishing our EMEA Trust and Safety Hub in Dublin at the start of this year, we have rapidly grown our team and have appointed senior leaders who are continuously enhancing the strategies, policies and processes designed to offer the safest app possible for creative expression. This week, we announced the opening of our first European data centre to be located in Ireland. More about the announcement can be found at this [link](#).

We hope that in taking these steps we will not only address the reasonable interests held by lawmakers to safeguard access to their citizens' data, but frankly sets a new bar in our industry. This will incur a huge cost and impose a significant burden on our business but we are going to do it because we recognise the importance to our stakeholders - including our Irish users and the Irish Government.

Of course, happy to provide more details if that is of interest.

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**Liz Kanter**  
Director Government Relations

